

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 105 as follows:

1-93 (canceled)

94. (Previously presented) A method for promoting intercellular communication of skin cells, comprising the application, to the appropriate skin areas of a person in need thereof, of an effective amount of at least one lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema.

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the lipid algal extract promotes intercellular communication via the gap junctions of keratinocytes, fibroblasts and skin preadipocytes.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the lipid algal extract which promotes intercellular communication promotes the formation of connexin.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the lipid algal extract which promotes intercellular communication promotes the formation of connexin 43.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the lipid algal extract is obtained by liquid-liquid extraction between an alkalized and then acidified alcohol and an apolar solvent

immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the lipid algal extract is present in cosmetic composition comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of the lipid algal extract, based on the total weight of the cosmetic composition.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94 wherein the lipid algal extract is obtained by extracting the alga *Skeletonema* with an alcoholic solvent selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, ethanol and methanol.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the lipid extract is obtained by extracting the alga with isopropanol.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the lipid extract is obtained by extracting the alga with ethanol.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the extraction is performed under reflux.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the alga is frozen before being extracted with the alcoholic solvent, the freezing being effected at a temperature of between about -40°C and -20°C and for a period of time ranging between

about 1 and 7 days.

105. (Currently amended) The method of claim 104, wherein the frozen alga is immersed directly in ~~the~~ a heated alcoholic solvent.

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the lipid algal extract is obtained after the following series of steps:

a) the alcoholic solvent is alkalized to a pH ranging between 10 and 14,

b) the insoluble materials are removed from the aqueous-alcoholic phase,

c) the distilled water is added to the aqueous-alcoholic phase,

d) the solution obtained is subjected to liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase,

e) the phase containing the apolar solvent is removed,

f) the aqueous-alcoholic phase recovered after removal of the phase containing the apolar solvent is acidified to a pH ranging between 1 and 3,

g) the solution obtained after acidification is subjected to liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase,

h) the aqueous-alcoholic phase is removed, and

i) the phase containing the apolar solvent recovered after

removal of the aqueous-alcoholic phase is evaporated to give an oil free of apolar solvent, this oil being the target lipid extract of said alga.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the extract is obtained by extraction with supercritical CO₂.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein, before any extraction operation, the alga is macerated in the alcoholic solvent at room temperature, for a period of time ranging between 5 minutes and 80 minutes.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the amount of alcoholic solvent used is between about 0.1 liter and 20 liters of solvent, per 100 g of alga, expressed by dry weight of alga.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the extraction is performed under an inert atmosphere.

111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the extraction is performed under an inert atmosphere comprising a nitrogen-saturated atmosphere.

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the lipid algal extract comprises from about 0.01% to 10% by weight

of said lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema, based on the total weight of said lipid algal extract.

113. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the lipid algal extract comprises from about 0.1% to 3% by weight of said lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema, based on the total weight of said lipid algal extract.